Abolition of vacant posts in Govt. Departments

4377. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had issued instructions in May, 1993 regarding deemed abolition of all posts in Government Departments lying vacant for one year or more;

(b) whether this directive is applicable to temporary posts only or to permanent posts also; and

(c) what is the total number of posts, category-wise, which have been abolished so far under this directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a)to (c) Instructions were issed in May, 1993 that if any post is held in abeyance or remains unfilled for a period of one year or more it would be deemed to be abolished. No centralised data is availble about the total number of posts abolished under this directive.

Staff car purchased by Government Departments

4378. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no staff cars can be purchased in the Government Departments without approval of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, what is the number of new staff cars purchased during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) whether Government propose to phase out the system of staff cars or reduce their numbers in a gradual manner; and

(d) if so, what are the targets set for 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Purchase of new staff cars requires the approval of the Finance Ministry. However, powers to purchase staff cars in replacement of cars condemned according to norms have been delegated to the Ministries/Departments.

(b) The information is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to completely phase out the system of staff cars.

Tax deduction at source by Public Sector Banks

4379. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the controversy over the payment of tax deducted at source by Public Sector Undertakings which disinvested shares in favour of their employees;

(b) whether Government have received any reference from these companies for settlement of the issue and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. References have been received from S.B.I. and U.T.I.

(c) Both references are under consideration and action will be taken as per the provisions of the Income-tax Act.